68th Legislature 2023 LC 1741

1	RESOLUTION NO
2	INTRODUCED BY
3	(Primary Sponsor)
4	A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO CONFIRM BY
5	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THE RIGHT TO PROHIBIT CORPORATE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
6	AND SEND THE AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.
7	
8	WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people is a foundational American value; and
9	WHEREAS, the people of the United States enacted the Constitution of the United States to ensure
10	self-governance and to secure the blessings of liberty; and
11	WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective, representative self-
12	governance; and
13	WHEREAS, the United States Congress and state legislatures should have the authority to set
14	reasonable limits and conditions on campaign contributions to ensure effective self-governance; and
15	WHEREAS, the citizens of Montana are very concerned about the continued, deepening erosion of our
16	democratic processes by the unlimited, massive expenditures by corporations in our election process and do
17	not accept this attack on our democratic processes; and
18	WHEREAS, out-of-state corporate money used in election campaigns has had a dramatic effect on
19	Montana's elections and on politics across the nation; and
20	WHEREAS, regardless of our political leanings and party affiliations, Montanans see that these
21	influences have overwhelmed our citizens' voices in recent campaigns, interfered with Montanans' right to
22	choose our representatives, and are undermining our democracy; and
23	WHEREAS, Montanans demand that we strengthen our democratic processes here in Montana and
24	across the nation by calling for the reversal of the "Citizens United" ruling's harmful result that corporations' use
25	of money in elections is supposed to be protected in the same way that the free speech of ordinary citizens and
26	persons is protected; and
27	WHEREAS, Montanans passed Initiative I-166 in 2012 by a 74.9% voter margin, with a majority in
28	every county, which asserted that, "the people of Montana establish that there should be a level playing field in



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68th Legislature 2023 LC 1741

1	campaign spending, in part by prohibiting corporate campaign contributions and expenditures and by limiting
2	political spending in elections"; and

WHEREAS, Initiative I-166 asserted that the people of Montana regard money as property and not as free speech and regard the rights under the Constitution of the United States as rights belonging to human beings; and

WHEREAS, Initiative I-166 called for the Montana Congressional Delegation to act by proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Montanans join citizens, organizations, and government entities from all over the country working to ban, by constitutional amendment, corporate contributions to elections and their destructive influence on our state and national politics.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Senate of the 68th Legislature of the State of Montana urges the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that confirms the authority of government by the people through state and federal law to regulate money in politics, particularly to prohibit corporate campaign contributions regarding a candidate or ballot issue, ensures all citizens have access to the political process by confirming that the rights enumerated in the Constitution of the United States are retained by the people as natural persons, and confirms that money is not equal to free speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Congress should send the amendment to the states for ratification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the individual members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

23 - END -



- 2 - LC 1741